

CONTACT FOR MEDIA: Roger Snell, communications director (502) 564-6098

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Health Care Improvement Board will meet for first time

FRANKFORT, Ky. - The Kentucky Health Care Improvement Authority Board will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 1:30 p.m. in the hearing room of the Kentucky Department of Insurance, 215 W. Main St., Frankfort.

The board, created under House Bill 517 during the 2000 General Assembly, will establish priorities for expenditure of Kentucky tobacco master settlement funds. HB 517 mandated that the money be allocated as follows:

- 70 percent, Kentucky Access fund. Kentucky Access is a new insurance pool that will subsidize health insurance for an estimated 3,000-5,000 individuals with high-cost medical conditions.
- 20 percent, collaborative partnership between the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky dedicated to lung cancer research.
- 10 percent, programs to discourage use of harmful substances by minors.

The authority is charged with assuring that public hearings are held regarding expenditures and an annual report is submitted to the governor and General Assembly with an evaluation of the program's effectiveness regarding health care and access to health insurance.

Gov. Paul E. Patton issued an executive order on Sept. 7 appointing the following individuals to the board: Commissioner George Nichols III, Department of Insurance, chairman; Secretary Jimmy D. Helton, Cabinet for Health Services, vice-chairman; Dr. Joel Kaplan, dean, U of L School of Medicine; Dr. Emery A. Wilson, dean, UK College of Medicine; Dr. Rice C. Leach, commissioner of the state Department for Public Health; Rep. Ron Crimm (R-Louisville), Rep. Jim Gooch Jr. (D-Providence), Sen. Ed Miller (D-Cynthiana) and Sen. Richard L. Roeding, (R-Lakeside Park), all ex officio, with terms ending Sept. 6, 2002; Ronald Gene Sowell, Bowling Green, term expiring Sept. 6, 2002, and Patrick Todd Lyles, Louisville, term expiring Sept. 6, 2004, both representing Kentucky health care providers; and Lynn Carol Birgmann, Louisville, term ending Sept. 6, 2001, G. Marcus Woodward, Ashland, term ending Sept. 6, 2002, Treva Louise Howell, Jackson, term ending Sept. 6, 2003, and Jim Powell, Harrodsburg, term ending Sept. 4, 2004, all representing citizens at large.